Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1657 - May 15 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Ladies and gentlemen here's Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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The great thing about Amateur Radio is that your level of involvement can be anything you choose- you can be an avid DX'er or just a casual repeater user. Run your fingers to the bone on packet or RTTY, be heavily involved with emergency work, or not even get on the air for a while. The hobby will still be there.

That's why we, the volunteer staff at Amateur Radio Newsline, love what we do- it's ever changing, ever evolving. Unfortunately, the realities of bringing you these weekly newscasts don't change that much.

We've done our best to try to shave down the fixed expenses- what it costs for internet service, how we can best use a combination of land- and wireless-based phone services, to hold these to a minimum. We've even done away with tape in our newsgathering and editing- everything's software and solid-state.

My backup solution to try would be to instruct our Producer, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, to only report on the news that automatically comes into our news bureau, as other news services do. But that defeats why it is that so many of you tell us that you love our service- that we bring you the voices of the newsmakers, and those special stories that just don't get reported. That's what makes us unique in Amateur Radio reporting.

Please help us keep these newscasts on the air, doing what we do best. You can contribute via PayPal on our website, arnewsline.org, or at our Arcadia California address given at the end of the newscast. We thank you for your support.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and now on to the news.

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Thank you Andy. That ends the closed circuit advisory with Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1657 with a release date of Friday, May 15th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams take a break from the rotten economy and head to Hamvention 2009, a NASA research panel says that Solar Cycle 24 will be low on sunspots, a ham will be the first ever European commander of the International Space Station and find out how to float your tower problems away on this Hamvention weekend Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1657 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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BREAKING NEWS: HAMVENTION(r) 2009 IS HERE

Motion pictures have the Oscars. Broadway has its Tony awards and Television its Emmys. And for ham radio the big event is Dayton:

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W8CI: "Its an absolutely fantastic event. It has so many fleas market spaces that it would take you an entire day to go through everything in the Flea Market. And the entire six building complex is completely filled with inside exhibits. We have forums based on all the different types of amateur radio and what a great place to get eyeball to eyeball with people you have not seen all year. So it's a pretty exciting event for amateur radio."

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That's spokesman Michael Kalter, W8CI, who recently was interviewed by Hap Holly, KC9RP, of RAIN regarding what to expect at this years Dayton Hamvention. And as the doors of the Hara Arena open on Friday, May 15th, upward of 25,000 hams from around the world are expected to be there for what's become known as the Show of Shows in amateur radio. And why not. This year Dayton offers just about everything, especially if only you are a ham who is willing to dream digital. Again, Michael Kalter, W8CI:

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W8CI: "Our theme is DREAM. That stands for 'Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More.' So the focus this year in our forums will be more on digital forms of communications.

"We are excited about that. We think that part of amateur radio is continuing to grow and become more interesting. We have a lot of people within the amateur radio community who are involved in it."

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And how is the nations faltering economy affecting ham radio? Kalter says that the forces that have caused banks to fail and at least one auto maker to go under have not affected pre opening sales. In fact, 2009 looks like it could beat out 2008:

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W8CI: "This year we have more inside exhibitors and Flea Market exhibitors signed up than we did last year. Our ticket sales are stronger than they were last year and that's always a concern, especially when you hear all the doom and gloom about the economy. But we are truly pleased that people are going to come and we want to put on a great show for them."

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Hamvention 2009 closes on Sunday, May 17th. We will have a complete

roundup of all the highlights on next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARNewsline(tm) with audio supplied by RAIN)

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FUTURE PROPAGATION: EXPERT PANEL EXPECTS WEAK SOLAR CYCLE 24

An international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center anticipates that a new active period of solar storms reaching Earth will be the weakest since 1928 and its peak is still four years away. This, after a very slow start to Solar Cycle 24 last December.

According to a report posted to the VHF Reflector, the panel predicts Cycle 24 will peak in May of 2013 with a daily sunspot number of only 90. If this forecast proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928. It will also be the ninth weakest since the 1750s, when counting the numbered cycles began.

But that's not all. The panel also believes that the lowest sunspot number between cycles occurred in December 2008. It says that period marked the end of Cycle 23 and the start of Cycle 24. If the prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will have been the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of Earth-sized blotches on the suns surface. These are the so-called sunspots and they mark areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur.

The persistence of a quiet sun has since led the panel to a consensus that the next cycle will be "moderately weak." As a rule of thumb, fewer sunspots mean a lot less DX for hams to work. NASA funds the prediction panel. (VHF Reflector via K0SQ)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: EUROPEAN HAM TO BECOME ISS COMMANDER

Frank De Winne, ON1DWN, is set to become the first European Space Agency astronaut to oversee the International Space Station.

De Winne is currently at Russia's cosmonaut training center outside of Moscow. He will leave there later this week and fly to neighboring Kazakhstan, where a Soyuz rocket is being prepared to carry him, Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Robert Thirsk, VA3CSA, to the orbiting space outpost. That launch is currently scheduled for May 27 .

The arrival of these three space adventurers which will bring the total number of crew on the I-S-S to six for the first time. For the first four months De Winne, who is from Belgium, will be a Flight Engineer as a member of the Expedition 20 Crew. With the next crew rotation ON1DWN will take over as Commander of Expedition 21 and will serve in that

position until his return to Earth in November. This will mark the first time that someone other than a Russian or an American has held that post. More is on-line at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8037431.stm and at http://www.southgatearc.org/news/november2008/frank_de_winne.htm (Southgate)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Hamvention repeater, W8BI, serving Dayton, Ohio.

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCAST BUST IN WYOMING

An unlicensed broadcaster in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is off the air. This after the FCC issues an order for it to cease and desist operation or face prosecution that could put its operator behind prison bars. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has more:

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Michael Stugelmayer said agents from the Denver FCC Enforcement Bureau ordered him to turn off his 95.5 MHz FM signal because it was in violation of the agencies rules. Federal agents, acting on an anonymous tip, issued Stugelmayer a "Notice of Violation" for broadcasting without a license. It also said that it took the action because Stugelmayer transmitter was emitting spurious signals that could present a safety hazard to the operation of aircraft in the area.

Stugelmayer told a local newspaper that he started broadcasting in 2003 after growing tired of listening to commercial radio while cruising downtown Cheyenne. He still could face a fine up to $100,000 and spend a year in jail for the violation. The FCC might also place a set-aside on his ham radio license when it comes time to renew in a few weeks on May 26th.

Stugelmayer told the newspaper that the buildings owner gave him permission to erect a waterproof antenna on the rooftop and set up his gear inside an unfinished attic space. If this proves true, then that owner could also face charges for aiding an unlicensed station to operate from his premises.

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As previously reported, assessing fines from property owners who make space available for unlicensed transmitters is another enforcement tool in the FCC's growing arsenal. This, to take unlicensed broadcasters off the air and make it harder for them ever to return. (Billings

Gazette, FCC)

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RADIO LAW: FCC ADMITS VANITY CALL MISTAKE AND REASSIGNS W9CQ CALL

The FCC has modified the amateur service club station license for the QRQ CW and Contest Group by changing the call sign from W9CQ to KC9MWH and the call of the Falls Amateur Radio Club from K9RHH to W9CQ. This as the agency admits that it made a mistake in the way the call was assigned under the vanity call program. Sound confusing? Here's the back story.

According to an FCC news release when a call sign associated with an amateur service station license that expires, is canceled due to the licensee's death, or is surrendered, revoked, set aside, or voided, is not available to the vanity call sign system for reassignment to another amateur station for two years. Certain licensees, including close relatives of a deceased former holder of the call sign and club station trustees acting with the written consent of such a relative, are exempt from the two-year waiting period.

Paul Kent,W9CQ, died on January 1, 2006, so the call sign was due to become available to the vanity call sign system on January 2, 2008. The application of Robert C. Moldenhauer for call sign W9CQ was granted in 2007 because Moldenhauer stated that he was Kent's in-law. Later that year, the Commission granted an application from Moldenhauer to modify his license to show a different call sign. This resulted in his license for call sign W9CQ being surrendered and canceled. Moldenhauer also informed the Commission's Enforcement Bureau that he had surrendered call sign W9CQ after realizing that he was related to a different Paul Kent and therefore was not eligible for the call sign prior to the end of the two-year waiting period.

Falls, now known as the Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club filed an application for W9CQ on January 2, 2008. It was dismissed by the FCC on the grounds that the call sign was not available because it was less than two years since Moldenhauer had surrendered it. Falls filed a petition for reconsideration, arguing that the call sign should have been made available to the vanity call sign system on January 2, 2008 because Moldenhauer had not been eligible to hold it in the first place.

While the petition was pending, the QRQ group submitted its application to modify its license by changing the call sign from KC9MWH to W9CQ. That action was granted on June 10, 2008 and Falls filed an appeal.

Now after weighing all of the information and evidence before it, the FCC has concluded that it made a mistake in assigning W9CQ to the QRQ CW and Contest Group. The agency says that had the procedures of the vanity call sign system been followed, W9CQ would not have been available when QRQ submitted its application. As such the FCC says that it would be in the public interest to modify the QRQ's amateur station club license by replacing call sign W9CQ with its prior KC9MWH call. It also says that the Falls application should be granted, and call sign W9CQ assigned to it. The FCC adds that it regrets any

inconvenience that this error has caused the QRQ CW and Contest Group. (FCC)

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RADIO LAW: SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH FCC IN CBS WARDROBE MALFUNCTION CASE

The U.S. Supreme Court has ordered a federal appeals court to re-examine its ruling in favor of CBS Corporation in a legal fight over entertainer Janet Jackson's so-called on the air wardrobe malfunction. This, with an eye at having the lower court re-institute a fine against the broadcast entity.

On Monday, May 4th the high court on directed the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia to consider reinstating the $550,000 fine that the Federal Communications Commission imposed on CBS. This over Jackson's breast-baring performance at the 2004 Super Bowl football championship.

Last year, the appeals court threw out the fine against CBS, saying the FCC strayed from its long-held approach of applying identical standards to words and images when reviewing complaints of indecency. The FCC appealed that decision to the Supreme Court.

The order follows the high courts earlier that narrowly upheld the FCC's policy threatening fines against even one-time uses of curse words during live broadcasts. (Published news reports)

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RESCUE COMMUNICATIONS: WHITE HOUSE TO JOIN SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

The White House is going broadband and joining the popular social network sites of Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. This, as a part of its campaign to obtain more insight from the citizenry on matters of national urgency like the current swine flu outbreak.

A spokesman says that access to these sites will be added the features to its main Web page, whitehouse.gov. Initially, the materials placid on the social networking sites will contain information about combating swine flu, but they will be updated with information on other topics as time goes by.

White House New Media Director Macon Phillips explained that the administration will not be able to reply individually to those who send messages via Facebook, MySpace or Twitter. However, people who join these groups can speak to one another, and the White House staff can see what they're saying. (RW)

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HAM RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ.COM BANS INTERNET TROLLS

The giant QRZ.COM ham radio website has banned Internet trolls from its cyberspace location.

According to Wikipedia.com, an Internet troll, or simply a troll is someone who posts controversial, inflammatory, irrelevant or off-topic messages in an online community. This, with the primary intent of provoking other users into an emotional response or to generally disrupt normal on-topic discussion.

According to QRZ owner Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, until now the site has dealt with trolling on a case-by-case basis. However Lloyd says that it has become apparent that a concrete policy statement is needed. Therefore, effective immediately, QRZ's policy on trolling will be to ban first time offenders for 90 days, and repeat offenders permanently.

Lloyd notes that an policy of intolerance towards trolling is common in major online communities like MySpace, and others. He then asks rhetorically as to why QRZ should be any different? In his front pager posting he answers by saying that it wont be any different on QRZ. He also advises readers to prepare to say goodbye to a few of what he terms as the wise-guys who have contributed nothing but misery and discord to an otherwise enjoyable web experience. (AA7BQ via QRZ.COM)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: TWO FROM UP NORTH

Some names in the news from up North. First is Derek Hay, VE4HAY, who has been appointed as Radio Amateurs of Canada's Midwest Region Director. This, to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of former director Devon Racicot, VE5DWR.

According to RAC President Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, Hay brings a wealth of experience to the directors seat. He will serve in the position until a formal election can be conducted in the region.

Also from Radio Amateurs of Canada President is the announcement that Jim Fisher, VE1JF, had been appointed as Chairman of the Low, Medium and High Frequency Band Planning Committee. Fisher takes over from Bob Nash, VE3KZ, who resigned after holding the position for the last several years. (RAC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: ZS2ACP AND ZS6NK HONORED FOR METEOR SCATTER WORK

Andre Botes, ZS2ACP and Paul Smit, ZS6NK, have been given the prestigious Icom Excellence Award for their work on VHF meteor scatter. The pair is credited with holding the first 4 meter Meteor Scatter contact made outside of Europe as well as setting the meteor scatter record and distance record in South Africa. This is the premier award of the South African Radio League. It 2009 recipients were announced at the society's recently held annual general meeting. (Southgate)

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RADIO HONORS: ATLANTA HAMFEST MEMORIAL TO HONOR MEMORY W4RU

And a special memorial service celebrating the life of Sandy Donahue, W4RU, will be held in conjunction with the Atlanta Hamfest on Saturday, June 6th.

As reported last week, the 63 year old Donahue who served as ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director since 2002 passed away in his sleep early on May 4th. He was buried on May 9th in Midland City, Alabama not far from his adopted hometown of Dolthan.

One of the best liked and most respected hams in our lifetime, Donahue was best known for his lifelong commitment to public service through ham radio and promoting the service to anyone who would show even the slightest interest. A ham since he was 15, he also supported many ham radio youth related activities including serving as an unofficial liaison and greater for the Newsline sponsored Young Ham of the Year Award.

W4RU spent most of his life in Atlanta, Georgia, before retiring to Dolthan, Alabama. His many lifelong friends in the Atlanta area wanted their own chance to say a final farewell to him.

For additional information and directions to the memorial and the hamfest please contact Jeff Beals, WA4AW. His e-mail is wa4aw (at) arrl (dot) net. (WA4AW)

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BREAK 2

Celebrating Hamvention 2009, from the United States of America we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: INSTANT CHARGE BATTERY

Well, you wont find it at Dayton, at least not yet but a new form of battery is being developed with what's being called instant charging. Jeff Clark, K8JAC, reports:

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Materials researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have announced that they have developed a new form of LiON battery. One could discharge and recharge in seconds rather than hours.

Gerbrand Ceder is a Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT. Along with his graduate student he discovered a way to build LiON batteries with a performance level more like that of Ultra Capacitors. These are caps that store less energy but can store and release it very quickly.

If commercialized, this new breed of LiON battery would allow future hybrid cars to rapidly recharge. It could also lead to improvements in portable two way radio as well as new consumer and industrial products.

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It will be some time before a battery like this is available commercially. (Science Daily)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: MARYLAND FM ASSN MEMORIAL DAY HAMFEST

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the Maryland F.M. Association will be holding its annual Memorial Day Hamfest on Sunday, May 24th. The venue is the Howard County Fairgrounds, in West Friendship, Maryland from 8am to 1pm with setup beginning at 6am. All times are local Eastern U-S. More is on-line at www.marylandfm.org (WA3MNN)

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WORLDBEAT: UK HAM TO LEAD DISCUSSION OF 500 kHz PROPOSAL AT ARC 2011

In news from around the world, the Radio Society of Great Britain's President, Colin Thomas, G3PSM, will lead key discussions at the 2011 World Radio Conference. Thomas has been appointed C-E-P-T Lead Coordinator for the 500kHz proposal, which is Agenda Item 1.23, at the conference. His appointment is rather unusual in that agenda item coordinators are normally selected from regulatory agencies or governing administrations. (GB2RS)

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WORLDBEAT: INDIA SEEKS 40 METER EXTENSION AND PERMANENT FREQS ON 30 AND 6

The Amateur Radio Society of India, on behalf of all of that nations hams has made a formal application to India's Department of Telecommunications for the new 40 Meter band segment to be allocated to the amateur community. Requests have also been made for permanent allocation of frequencies in the 6 meter and 30 meter bands. These spectrum parcels were previously given to India's ham community on a short term basis, but later withdrawn.

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WORLDBEAT: MELBOURNE AND PERTH GO DULL TIME DAB+

Commercial radio stations in Melbourne made history on Monday, May 11th. That's when they begin broadcasting the first permanent DAB+ digital radio services on the east coast of Australia.

Joan Warner is the chief executive officer of Commercial Radio Australia the industry body that has driven the move to digital radio.

He is quoted as saying that the 11th was another milestone for the industry in Australia following the switch on of DAB+ digital radio in Perth about two weeks ago.

(CRA, WIA)

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DX

In DX, word that DM2BBN, will be living in Ethiopia for the next years and is operational on 80 through 6 with the exception of 160 or 40 meters. QSL direct to Dr. Peter Haferkorn, PO Box 150194, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

And the United Kingdom's Barry Amateur Radio Society will be active as GB-100-BP from Sully, Wales on until May 31st. The special callsign celebrates 100 years of British Petroleum. QSL via GW0ANA.

YS1G will be on the air from El Salvador through May 23rd operating mainly on CW. QSL via G3TXF. The log entries will be electronically uploaded to Logbook to the World.

5H1HP and 5H1MS will be active from Zanzibar Island from May 16th to June 2nd. The pair will operate 2 meter EME and meteor scatter with some additional activity on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL this operation via DL2NUD and DL9MS respectively.

OT4R, is going to spend his vacation operating portable HI7 from the Dominican Republic. He will be there through May 30th on 20, 15 and 10 meters with a preference for 14 point 300 MHz. QSL as directed by the operator

Lastly, listen out for ZL1CT who will be operating as ZK2V from Niue Island through June 20th. Activity will be mainly on the 80, 40, 20 and 15 meter bands using CW and SSB. There may be some WARC band and RTTY activity as well. QSL via N3SL

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THAT FINAL ITEM: FLOAT IT AWAY

And finally this week, the story of a tower that needed a new home but no way to get it there. Well no way until a couple of hams came along. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the rest of the story:

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An amateur radio tower stood in the backyard of a suburban home long after the resident radio amateur became a silent key. His widow wanted it removed but with house extensions over the years it seemed to be a very expensive proposition indeed.

It could lifted out by a crane that would require the cutting of power lines, permits, insurance and other hassles, or maybe a helicopter was an option. Either way it was going to be far too costly.

Along come a couple of radio amateurs who used their ingenuity to solve the problem. The tower was put on the ground, fitted with brackets on to which were mounted empty 44-gallon drums. Through an opening in the rear fence and then slid into a creek.

Just like Davie Crockett and Daniel Boone the radio amateurs paddled the floating tower downstream to a location accessible by vehicle and loaded it onto a trailer. A win-in situation for the widow who was pleased to see the tower gone and for a ham who acquired it for transplanting in a new location.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

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The bottom line to all of this? That's simple. When you have a problem that seems insurmountable, simply call on a ham. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk from Hamvention 2009, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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